

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Program

1. PURPOSE: To provide information to Military Components the status of Fort Drum's Fish and Wildlife Program

2. INFORMATION:

a. A comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Program exists on Fort Drum. To ensure sound fish and wildlife conservation, a Cooperative Agreement Plan has been signed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Fort Drum. This Plan outlines areas of cooperation and establishes conservation policies and goals.

b. Fort Drum has an active recreational hunting, fishing, and trapping program. Other recreational activities include bird watching, hiking, and berry picking. A fee collection program has been established that requires recreational users to purchase a Recreation Permit for certain activities (hunting, fishing, and trapping). The fees are the same for all participants, regardless of rank or military/civilian status. The funds are used for fish and wildlife management activities on Fort Drum only.

c. The Fish and Wildlife Program implements various surveys involving game species such as wild turkey, beaver, and woodcock on Fort Drum. Throughout the hunting season, a big game check station is open to collect biological information on white-tailed deer and black bear. There are several fisheries management activities done usually in conjunction with USFWS and NYSDEC.

d. In addition to monitoring game species, the Fish and Wildlife Program is concerned with non-game species and habitat improvement. Surveys are conducted for reptiles, amphibians, songbirds and other non-game wildlife species to help determine population trends. The Fish and Wildlife Program works in cooperation with the Forestry Program and Wetlands Program to promote the creation and/or maintenance of habitat for fish and wildlife. The Fish and Wildlife Program also cooperates with universities and other entities to research various issues such as biocontrol of invasive plants (e.g., purple loosestrife and leafy spurge), habitat characteristics and breeding biology of Henslow's sparrows, determining population trends of neotropical migratory songbirds as a part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program, and the impact of invasive plants on bluebird nesting success and amphibian development.

e. The Fish and Wildlife Management Program is administered by the Directorate of Public Works (PW) Environmental Division. The point-of-contact (POC) for this program is the installation's Fish and Wildlife Program Manager, (315) 772-9636; DSN 772.

3. CONCLUSION: The Fish and Wildlife Program functions to manage all wildlife species and their habitats on Fort Drum.